**Privatisation of BALCO**

2980. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many bidders have been received for privatisation of Bharat Aluminium Company;

(b) whether Government have received any evaluation from the Global advisors on BALCO; and

(c) when will the shareholders agreement for BALCO be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Eight parties have responded to the advertisement inviting Expression of Interest for disinvestment of 51 % Government equity in BALCO. The Global Adviser has analysed these responses recommending shortlisting of six parties. The shareholders agreement has to be settled in discussions with the Global Adviser and the interested parties before asking for price bids.

**Differences between Various Constituents of NDA over Disinvestment Programme**

2981. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector units disinvestment programme initiated by Government is turning out to be a battle of wits between the various constituents of the NDA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Slow process of disinvestment**

2982. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has decried over the slow process of disinvestment of Government equity in PSUs;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering a proper disinvestment policy;